which dumped imports are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry.

While anti-dumping investigations on imports of PVC resin, Styrene Butadiene rubber and Bisphenol-A have been initiated at the request of the Indian industry no final decision has been taken in this regard.

Export of Agricultural Products

2662. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of decline in the exports of agricultural products during,the current year as compared to the exports during the corresponding period in 1991;

(b) what is the decline in the committed exports of agricultural products to U.S.S.R, after its disintegration;

(c) what is the overall decline in foreign exchange earnings as a result of decline in the exports of agricultural products;

(d) what are the major reasons for the decline of agricultural products in the internationl markets; and

(c) what is the strategy, if any, formulated by Government to step up exports of agricultural products during 1993?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The exports of agricultural products during April-October 1992 are estimated to be Rs. 2743 crores as against Rs. 2322 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year. This reflects an increase of 18%. Exports from this sector to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) during April-August this year are down to Rs. 89 crores as against Rs. 151 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(e) The main elements of the strategy to step up exports of agricultural products are:—

(1) Increase in production and productivity of important items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;

(2) Improved price competitiveness;

(3) Aggressive marketing in the potential countries through participation in exhibitions, holding of Buyer-Seller Meets and interaction with importers;

(4) Value addition;

(5) Quality assurance programmes.

Exploring New Market for F.C.V. Tombacco

2663. DR YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to explore new export market for F.C.V. Tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that the per unit value realisation for our tobacco is much less, as compared to other countries;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken to redress the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Steps taken to explore new markets for F.C.V. Tobacco include:

—Sending trade delegations to is tified new markets of FCV to back

—Participation in International Exhibitions.

—Aggressive publicity in overseas markets.

—Pursuing with Governments through Joint Committee meetings etc. to import Indian tobacco.

—Inviting delegations from tobacco

ganisations of identified markets to familiarise them with the Indian tobacco industry, the quality of Indian tobacco and holding discussions with Indian Exporters.

(b) and (c) The reasons for lower FOB prices compared to those of many other competing countries are as follows:—

(1) Variation in the grade style and quality composition of the tobacco exported by different countries.

(2) Low export price realisation for Indian tobacco because most of the available production (between 80-85%) is of filler style as compared to flavourful styles in USA, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Canada etc.

(3) Comparatively lower cost of production and lower average growers prices on account of this.

(d) Steps taken to increase the unit value realisation include:

—Efforts to improve the quality of Indian tobacco and produce high value flavourful tobaccos in the existing and new areas.

—Increasing the minimum export prices by 20% in 1991 and 50% in 1992.

Export Performance

2664. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to boost exports;

(b) the trade-gap during April-September, 1992-93 and how it compares with the same period of 1991-92; and

(c) the reasons for a low performance on export front during first six months of 1992-93;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July, 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licencing and rationalising the import tariff structure. Rupee has been made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import policy, which, *inter alia,* aims to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enchance its export capabilities. The policy also seeks to promote efficient and internationally competitive import substitution and self-reliance under a, desegulatcd framework for foreign trade. A short term action plan for ensuring the revival of the export momentum has been formulated. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as 'extreme focus' sectors aimed at value increase of 30% every year in exports.

(b) The trade deficit during April-September, 1992 amounted to Rs.'7485 crores as compared to Rs. 2356 crores during April-Sept. 91.

(c) Exports during April-Sept., 92-93 amounted to US $ 8549 (Rs. 24403 crores) indicating an increase of 5.37% (38.42% in rupee terms) over the corresponding period of last year. The factors constraining export growth include collapse of erstwhile Soviet Union recession in major economies of the world such as US, UK, Germany, Japan, etc., slow growth in global trade, fall in commodity prices, etc.

यूरोप में मंदी का भारतीय व्यापार विकास पर प्रभाव

2665. श्री एन० ई० बलराम:
श्री चतुरानन मिश्र:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में यूरोप में मंदी और अधिक घनी हो गई है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह हमारे देश के विदेश व्यापार के विकास परिदृश्य को किस तरह से प्रभावित करेगी?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद): (क) और (ख) जी हां, विशेषकर, यूरोपीय